MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN NEW YORK CITY, JULY 15, 1933.

The first meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1934 was held at the office of McKim, Mead and White, 101 Park Avenue, Saturday, July 15, 1933. The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Mauran,
Mr. Swartwout,
Mr. Clarke,
Mr. Lawrie,
Mr. Howells,
Mr. Savage,
also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Executive Secretary

and Administrative Officer. There were also present Mr. William Mitchell Kendall, representing the architects, and Major D. P. Gillette, and Mr. John L. Eagle, Engineer, of the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission; also Mr. Charles W.Eliot, Director of Planning of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., daylight saving time.

1. CALVERT STREET BRIDGE: The Secretary stated that Major Botwalls had informed him that the Commissioners of the District of Columbia would send their report as to a new Calvert Street Bridge to the members of the Commission of Fine Arts by July 20th, with a view to having a joint meeting with the National Capital Park and Planning Commission on the afternoon of Friday, July 28th. After consideration, the Commission agreed to meet in Washington on that date for this purpose.

Consideration was given to the question of design for the new bridge. Mr. Moore said that in 1917 the Commission of Fine Arts had approved the design for a masonry arched bridge, by George Oakley Totten Jr., architect of Washington, with the understanding that working drawings would be submitted later, but that the design had never been altogether satisfactory to the members of the Commission, and nothing further was done about the Totten design.

When in 1931 the Commissioners of the District submitted sketches prepared by Paul Cret, architect, and Modjeski, Masters and Chase, Consulting Engineers, for a single span steel arch bridge with masonry approaches, and from the sketches submitted the Commission selected one (No.4) that was thought acceptable. The Commissioners now had two sets of designs. Mr. Totten was determined that his design should be carried out and took up the matter with the Appropriations Committee of Congress that was to provide an appropriation for the bridge. That Committee however felt this was an "engineering question" and adopted an amendment in the 1934 District of Columbia Appropriation Act, stipulating that the District Commissioners shall make a restudy of the project, with the proviso that the Commission of Fine Arts shall approve the type of bridge decided upon.

Mr. Moore said the Commission is to consider this project in connection with the question of design for the other bridges still needed to cross Rock Creek. The single arch span was worked out by Mr. Cret at the request of the Engineer Commissioner of the District, Mr. Moore said, in order to keep the view of Rock Creek valley open. A discussion followed in which it was pointed out that the new Calvert Street bridge, which will be 800 feet in length and 70 feet wide, should be subordinate to the Connecticut Avenue bridge, which is 1450 feet in length and 35 feet wide. Some of the members of the Commission felt an arched masonry bridge would be more in keeping with the Connecticut Avenue Bridge, but no engineering data was at hand as to requirements for foundations of the arches.

The Commission called attention to the [illegible] street Bridge, which is of stone, and the new M Street Bridge, which is a reinforced concrete bridge. The Secretary said the Commission have approved the design for the new P Street Bridge crossing Rock Creek, and it is proposed to build this under the Public Works Program of the National Industrial Recovery Act.

Mr. Moore asked about additional bridges to be built across Rock Creek. Mr. Elliot said a bridge will be needed at Tilden Street, at Pierce Mill in Rock Creek Park, at Kennedy Street, south of the Military Road, and at Aspen Street south of a road leading to Chevy Chase Circle. All of these will be high level bridges.

Mr. Douglas, Engineer for the Arlington Memorial Bridge, was present and said that personally he does not like a steel bridge to contrast with the Connecticut Avenue Bridge. He said he did not wish to criticize Mr. Modjeski's design, and so far as that is concerned Mr. Modjeski can design any kind of bridge. There may be a question as to the number of arches. Mr. Douglas thought there could be three arches without interfering with a view of the valley and it would mean a bridge more in harmony with the Connecticut Avenue Bridge. Then too, he said, a steel bridge is noisy.

Consideration was given to the question of a plaza at the end of the Calvert Street Bridge and the Connecticut Avenue Bridge. It was thought a few existing buildings in the locality should be removed to make one great plaza.

2. PLAN FOR WIDENING E STREET, WEST OF 15th STREET: Mr. Elliot submitted a plan received by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission from the Commissioners of the District of Columbia for the widening of E Street west of 14th Street to correspond to the width of E Street north of the District Building and the Department of Commerce Building. Mr. Elliot said this project is to be carried out under the Public Works Program of the National Industrial Recovery Act. It provides for widening the street to 56 feet and will connect with the 56 foot driveway around the Ellipse. No trees are to be cut down, he said.

Mr. Moore said as a traffic proposition he was opposed to the project. The question of closing the road was thereupon considered and it was pointed out that there is much traffic at 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue due to the manner of traffic routing, requiring a number of detours near the Treasury, and it would create a worse traffic congestion to close the street. Mr. Moore then said that the road should be limited to light traffic, and the Commission concurred in this.

Attention was then called to the west end of the street, namely at 17th Street, south of the State, War and Navy Building, where a mound has been created for the First Division Memorial. Mr. Moore said the grounds of the Sherman statue south of the Treasury Building and the First Division Memorial should be symmetrical and the area in general should be treated as part of the President's Park.

After discussion, it was decided that the wall at 15th and B Streets should be removed and the grounds for the Sherman Statue graded. It was admitted that in future years an underpass connecting 15th and 17th Streets would be needed.

Mr. Clarke said he desired to study the plan more in detail, and the Commission accordingly referred the plan to him for study and report.

3. SKETCH FOR THE NEW LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REFORMATION: The Secretary presented a sketch prepared by Porter & Lockie, Architects, of Washington, for the new Lutheran Church of the Reformation to be built opposite the Folger Shakespeare Library. The old church building at Second Street and Pa.Ave.S.E. has been sold to make room for the new addition to the Library of Congress.

A 94' frontage has been acquired opposite the Folger for the new church building. The Secretary stated that the Building Committee has requested

the architects to confer with the Commission of Fine Arts as to the design, and this sketch has been made simply to give an indication of the kind of building proposed, so as to harmonize with the Folger Library.

The architect members of the Commission inspected the sketch, but were not satisfied with it. They thought it resembled a mausoleum and did not resemble a church building in the least.

Mr. Moore said that one of the architects, Mr. Porter, formerly associated with Hornblower & Marshall and with Waddy Wood, had conferred with him about the sketch; that Mr. Porter had said several members of the congregation protested against the design, saying it looks like a bank building, and that they wanted a Gothic building, but that he felt a Gothic building was not in keeping with the Folger Library. The church is to be built of limestone.

The Secretary then called attention to another difficulty, involving the exact location of the building about 20 feet back of the present building line (which is 55 feet back from the curb) so as to balance the Folger Library on the south side of East Capitol Street, which is 73 feet back from the curb. The Commission advised that the church building should be built on the new building line. The Secretary presented a sketch showing what effect this will have on the building,--that instead of an auditorium that was to be oblong it will be about 62' square. The Commission felt this was a matter for the architects to work out. However, the Commission requested that the architects give special study to the facade, having in mind that this is to be a church building. A report was sent to the architects accordingly (Exhibit A).

The Secretary said that the request of the Commission to have the church building erected on the new building line for East Capitol Street requires action with reference to the plan for widening East Capitol Street, prepared

by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, which Mr. Eliot wishes to bring before the Commission of Fine Arts.

4. PLAN FOR WIDENING EAST CAPITOL STREET: Mr. Eliot submitted a plan prepared and approved by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission for widening East Capitol Street, and read the Resolution adopted by that Commission on January 15, 1931, as follows:

> MOTION unanimously carried that the Commission favors the development of East Capitol Street from the Capitol to Lincoln Park by moving the trees back and establishing a 75-foot pavement width, and widening the street between buildings by establishing a new building line approximately 20 feet back from the present building line on both sides.

Mr. Eliot said the plan was prepared when the Folger Shakespeare Library was built, and it determines the new building line for East Capitol Street. The Secretary stated that on Friday evening he and Mr. Porter measured the distance from the curb to the Folger Library building and found it to be 73 feet, or 18 feet back of the existing building line, which is 55 feet back from the curb. Mr. Eliot said it will be 200 feet between building lines under the new plan.

The Secretary urged the adoption of the plan, so as to give notice to the public as to future building requirements on East Capitol Street. Mr. Eliot said the plan should be officially adopted and the District Commissioners notified of it, with the suggestion that the necessary steps be taken to secure the adoption of the plan by legislative enactment of Congress.

Thereupon, on motion properly moved and seconded, the Commission of Fine Arts approved the plan (Exhibit B).

5. SIGN AT 13th AND E STREETS: The Secretary submitted a letter ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ received from the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, requesting permission to paint a pictorial sign on the wall of an old building near 13th St. on E St.

facing ground owned by Mr. Ford. The sign is to be 10' x 20' in size, in return for which the Company would paint the entire wall of the old building and improve an unsightly condition.

The Commission considered the matter and decided it would establish a very bad precedent to allow the painting of this sign, where the Commission has now for several years tried to improve the appearance of Pennsylvania Avenue, and it would be better to leave the unsightly wall in its present condition. It was thought a building would be built there in the near future. The application was disapproved accordingly (Exhibit C).

6. LEE HIGHWAY: Mr. Clarke said during the past week he had talked with Prof. Hubbard of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission about the Lee Highway and that Prof. Hubbard was strongly of the opinion that the Lee Highway connection with the Arlington Memorial Bridge, by way of the north side of Arlington National Cemetery, could be improved. Mr. Clarke was of the opinion that to look across the river from the Water Gate and see the Lee Highway come down the hill on the other side would create a displeasing appearance.

Mr. Eliot said the National Capital Park and Planning Commission would be willing to give further study to the matter if desired. Mr. Eliot presented a sketch showing route A, the straight road, and alternate roads B, C and D. The Commission felt that routes C or D would be an improvement over route A, preferably route D. The Commission concurred in the suggestion that further study be given to this matter.

Mr. Kendall called attention to the plan adopted by the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission, which provides for the Lee Highway connection at the circle on the north end of Columbia Island.

The Secretary stated that the Virginia Legislature has approved the construction of the road by way of the north side of Arlington National Cemetery, and that in talking with Col. Shirley, Chairman of the Virginia Highway Commission, about the matter a few days ago, he said any material change in the line of the route would require an amendment by the State Legislature to the Act. It was understood that Dr. Johnson, President of the Lee Highway Association, has been securing dedications for a 200 foot right of way.

Mr. Clarke said he would come to Washington on July 27th and inspect the locality. He felt it worth while to improve the line of the route if at all possible. The Commission concurred in this.

7. COLUMBIA ISLAND DEVELOPMENT: Major Gillette requested the advice of the Commission as to what should be done in the event money is allowed under the Public Works Program for developing Columbia Island. He presented a general plan for Columbia Island.

The Commission called attention to the plan prepared by McKim, Mead and White showing Columbia Island Plaza with its cross arms and a circle at each end. The Commission advised that if any money can be had for Columbia Island, construction work should be begun on Columbia Island Plaza, so as to connect properly the Arlington Memorial Bridge with the Memorial Avenue.

8. LANDSCAPE PLAN, AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION BUILDING: The Secretary presented a completed landscape plan prepared for the American Pharmaceutical Association by Mr. A. F. Brinckerhoff, Landscape Architect, together with letter from him dated July 14, 1935, as follows:

> In compliance with instructions from the Office of John Russell Pope, I have completed the detailed grading and planting plans for the American Pharmaceutical Association building site in Washington, D.C., and in further compliance with direction from this office, I submit

herewith these plans - Grading Plan #4-3 & Planting Plan #4-4- and accompanying list. These plans have been worked out in general conformity with the preliminary plans submitted to your Commission and tentatively approved at the meeting of April 21, 1933.

I understand that you will take action on the enclosed plans at the time of your meeting - July 15th.

The Commission inspected the plans. Major Clarke said that recently he spent two hours with Mr. Brinckerhoff, going over the plans, and approved them. Upon the recommendation of Major Clarke, the Commission approved the plans (Exhibit B).

Dr. Kelly, Secretary of the American Pharmaceutical Association, said an agreement had been reached with the Director of Public Buildings and Public Parks as to the amount of land to be transferred to him and by him to the Association in connection with their building project.

5. BIOLOGICAL, PHYSICAL, AND CHEMICAL LABORATORY, AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION: Sir Henry Wellcome, a prominent international pharmacist, and Dr. Kelly, informed the Commission of the need of an additional building north of the American Pharmaceutical Association Building, to be used as a Biological, Physical and Chemical Laboratory. Dr. Kelly said the United States Pharmacopoeia are books of standards for druggists. They have been developed by the Pharmacists for 100 years and when the United States Food and Drug Act was adopted, these books were made books of standards. The scientific work required in the revision of the work is being done voluntarily by 250 druggists throughout the United States. Their work has an industrial value as well as governmental. As the work has been growing it has become more and more necessary to have a central office or bureau and laboratory where this work can be done. For this reason the Pharmacists want this additional building. Thereupon Dr. Kelly introduced Sir Henry Wellcome, who he said is a native of the United States, a graduate of the Philadelphia School of Pharmacy, and is noted for the Pharmacies he has established in England and laboratories in Africa.

Sir Henry said that he has been much pleased with the fact that the Pharmacists are about to be established in a headquarters building here in Washington, and that he had had this laboratory in mind from the time their building project began several years ago. It was decided then that the headquarters building would serve for an administration building, a library with the museum feature added, but would not be large enough also for a laboratory. Furthermore, cases of a laboratory should be kept out of an administration building. Sir Henry said he would be willing to bear the cost of erecting the laboratory building if the Government would provide the ground. Mr. Pope would design the building.

The Commission expressed their interest in the matter and offered to cooperate. The Commission noted that the area in question is within the taking line for acquiring land for the Government south of New York Avenue. The Secretary cited the gift by the Government of the triangle west of the Pan American Union for their new Administration Building, and as much as $300,000 for each of the Red Cross Buildings. The laboratory, Dr. Kelly said, would be privately owned, but its work would be for the public good.

At the suggestion of the Secretary, Dr. Kelly will send a letter to the Commission of Fine Arts outlining the plan for the laboratory and setting forth the Government aid desired in connection with this project. It was thought the land would cost about $200,000.

10. SCULPTURE, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BUILDING: Mr. Lawrie presented a photograph of Mr. Jennewein's figures for the pediment of the Department of Justice Building. Mr. Lawrie requested advice as to whether the naked male figures should be draped. Mr. Moore thought they should be to avoid adverse criticism. Also Mr. Moore said he felt Mr. Jennewein should give

more study to the composition and produce something really fine for a Department of Justice building, other than simply a group of figures. The other members of the Commission thought this was a good suggestion. Mr. Lawrie said he would talk with Mr. Jennewein about the matter.

11. PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT MEDAL: The Secretary presented the following letter from Mr. John R. Sinnock, Medallist-Engraver of the United States Mint, in Philadelphia, as to his models for the President Roosevelt Medal:

July 14, 1935.

"Due to some delay in the Director of the Mint's office, the model for the reverse of the Roosevelt Medal is just being shipped today and it will probably not reach me before Monday, therefore I could not get even x photographs for you. I will arrange to show the models to Mr. Lawrie at the earliest date convenient to him and send photographs to you at the same time."

Mr. Lawrie said he would be glad to inspect the models at any time Mr. Sinnock would present them, and this was agreeable to the Commission. Mr. Sinnock was informed accordingly (Exhibit E).

12. SCULPTURE, ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE: The Secretary presented the following letter received by him from Mr. Leo Friedlander as to his models for the sculptural groups for the Arlington Memorial Bridge:

July 7, 1935.

"Thank you for your letter of July 5th. Contrary to the hope expressed in my letter of several months ago to have my groups ready for inspection about this time, I find that they will require a little more work. This I believe necessary in the best interest of the groups. They will, however, be ready definitely by October 1st."

The Commission took note of this, and arrangements will be made for an inspection of the models soon after October 1st. (Exhibit F).

The Commission adjourned at 5:30 p.m., to meet in Washington on July 18th. The Commission were the guests of Mr. Lawrie at luncheon at the Century Club.

COPY

July 17, 1933.

Dear Sirs:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on July 15, 1933, considered your sketch for the Lutheran Church of the Reformation, to be built on East Capitol Street, opposite the Folger Shakespeare Library.

The Commission emphasized the importance of a church building that would be in harmony with the Folger Library. However, the sketch submitted was not satisfactory to the Commission in that it does not have the appearance of a church building. The Commission felt it resembled a mausoleum. The Commission therefore advise restudy with due regard to the Folger Library and the fact that this is to be a church building.

In this connection there is enclosed a blueprint of a plan prepared by the National Capital Park and Planning Commission for the widening of East Capitol Street, creating a new building line about twenty feet back of the present building line, to conform to that of the Folger Library, which is 73 feet back from the curb. The Commission of Fine Arts have approved this plan. The Lutheran Church of the Reformation should be built in accordance with it.

Sincerely yours,

Messrs. Porter & Lockie, Architects,
Dupont Circle,
Washington, D.C.

(Signed) U. P. Caemmerer,
Secretary.

EXHIBIT A

COPY

July 18, 1935.

Dear Colonel Woodruff:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on July 15, 1935, approved the plan of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, submitted by Mr. Eliot, for the widening of East Capitol Street to a 75-foot pavement width, and establishing a new building line approximately 20 feet back from the present building line on both sides of the street, in accordance with the action taken by your Commission on January 16, 1931.

The Commission of Fine Arts suggest that this matter be brought to the attention of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia with a view to securing the necessary legislative enactment to do to make the plan legally effective. The Folger Shakespeare Library having been built on the new building line, the Commission of Fine Arts will expect that future developments along East Capitol Street will conform to the new building line.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) U. S. Daehmlow,
Secretary.

Col. J. A. Woodruff,
Executive and Disbursing Officer,
National Capital Park and Planning Commission,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT B

COPY

July 17, 1930.

Dear Mr. Schubert:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on July 16th carefully considered the sketch you submitted with your letter of June 25, 1930, for a painted sign at 415-17 Thirteenth Street, N.W.

The Commission took note of the fact that this is to be a pictorial wall sign 10' x 20', and as such would be distinctly visible from Pennsylvania Avenue. Under the provisions of the Shipstead-Luce Act it is proposed to improve the appearance of Pennsylvania Avenue, and since the enactment of the law in 1926 the Commission of Fine Arts have made considerable improvement in the appearance of this most important avenue of the Nation. Roof signs and large advertising signs have been prohibited. The Commission of Fine Arts felt, therefore, constrained to disapprove your application. The Commission regretted that an unsightly wall would have to remain, but expressed the hope that before many months a suitable building would be erected at this location.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Very respectfully, yours,

(Signed) C. H. Jaenmerson,
Secretary.

Mr. L. V. Schubert,
Standard Oil Company of New Jersey,
Washington, D.C.

EXHIBIT C

COPY

July 20, 1933.

My dear Dr. Kelly:

I am pleased to inform you that the Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting in New York City, July 18, 1933, approved the detailed grading and planting plans for the grounds of the American Pharmaceutical Association Building, submitted by Mr. A. D. Brincke-hoff, Landscape Architect, for the Office of John Russell Pope, Architect.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) W. G. Caemmerer,

Secretary.

Dr. D. F. Kelly, Secretary,
American Pharmaceutical Association,
10 West Chase St.,
Baltimore, Md.

Copy to:
Mr. Pope
Mr. Brinckerhoff.

EXHIBIT D

COPY

July 18, 1934.

Dear Mr. Sinnock:

I brought your letter of July 14th to the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on the 16th. It was agreeable to the Commission that you bring your models for the Roosevelt Medal to the attention of the sculptor member of the Commission, Mr. Lawrie, whenever convenient for you. Mr. Lawrie will arrange matters with you accordingly. Please send photographs of the models after inspection by Mr. Lawrie.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) H. R. Caemmerer,

Secretary.

Mr. John R. Sinnock,
Medallist-Engraver,
United States Mint,
Philadelphia, Pa.

EXHIBIT E

July 23, 1925.

Dear Mr. Friedlander:

I brought your letter of July 7th, stating your models for the sculptural groups at the entrance to the Arlington Memorial Bridge will be ready by October 1st, to the attention of the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting in New York City on July 15th.

The Commission will arrange to inspect your models some after October 1st. Mr. Kendall, of McKim, Mead and White, architects of the Arlington Memorial Bridge, has also been informed of this matter.

For the Commission of Fine Arts:

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) C. M. Zimmerer,

Secretary.

Mr. Leo Friedlander, &c.,
101 Park Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

EXHIBIT F